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TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, OAS, IA-ECOSOC

SUBJECT: OAS: 10TH ANNUAL MEETING OF IA-ECOSOC - USDEL

-- NO. 4

-- BRASILIA PLEASE PASS ASST. SEC. ROGERS

1. WEDNESDAY WORKING COMMITTEE SESSIONS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. COMMITTEE ONE SETTLED DOWN TO SERIOUS TECHNICAL QUESTION AND ANSWER DISCUSSION OF TRADE ACT, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT POLEMICS WERE OVER AND PHASE OF GENUINE DIALOGUE HAD ARRIVED. WE ARE PLEASED THAT RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS MOST LIKELY WILL BE A REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY INSTEAD OF A RESOLUTION, THOUGH FINAL TWO HOURS OF DEBATE DEGENERATED INTO FAMILIAR SQUABBLE OVER PROCESS OF DRAFTING REPORT.

2. COMMITTEE TWO AGREED TO A RESOLUTION (URUGUAY AND US)

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REQUESTING THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A STUDY ON BALANCE OF

PAYMENTS PROBLEMS IN THIS HEMISPHERE, REFERRED STUDIES ON US-LATIN AMERICAN TRADE TO SCCN, AND STUDIES ON EXTERNAL FINANCING PROBLEMS (CAUSED PRIMARILY BY OIL PRICES IMPACT) AND ON FOOD PROSPECTS TO CEPICIES. REMAINING FOR CONSIDERATION ARE CIES REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHILE RESOLUTION UPGRADING OAS SUPPORT OF COOPERATIVES.

3. COMMITTEE THREE APPROVED NEW RULES FOR CEPICIES, AGENDA FOR CONFERENCES OF LABOR MINISTERS, PORTS AND HARBORS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRAVEL AS WELL AS OAS RESOLUTION

DIRECTING CEPICIES TO REPORT ON STATISTICS PROGRAM AND CIPE IN ADDITION TO REPORT SUBMITTED ON CAPITAL MARKETS.

4. MOST NOTEWORTHY OF DAY'S EVENTS WAS AFTERNOON PLENARY WHICH HEARD PREPARED STATEMENTS BY ARGENTINA, US (INGERSOLL), AND VENEZUELA. TEXT OF INGERSOLL STATEMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

5. IN PLENARY, ARGENTINA 1) DESCRIBED PROBLEMS OF SECURING ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AS DIFFERING, DEPENDING ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATIONS, AND URGED FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE BY INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES, 2) DESCRIBED APPLICATION OF US TRADE ACT AS CRUCIAL, BUT LAUDED POSITIVE DIALOGUE WHICH WAS DEVELOPING IN OAS, AND 3) URGED ATTENTION TO FOOD POTENTIAL IN LATIN AMERICA, AND REQUIREMENT OF STABLE MARKET ACCESS AT REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY.

6. VENEZUELA READ SET PIECE REVIEWING ITS USUAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRADE BILL, ADDING THOSE ABOUT TITLE II (RELIEF FROM INJURIOUS IMPORTS) AND TITLE III (RELIEF FROM EFFECTS OF UNFAIR TRADE FEATURES) TO WELL KNOWN COMPLAINTS ABOUT GSP (TITLE V). IN SOMEWHAT MELODRAMATIC PERORATION VENEZUELA (MACHIN) ALLUDED TO ENCOURAGING STATEMENTS BY US DELEGATION, PARTICULARLY PROMISE BY ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL (SEE SEPTTEL) THAT USG SEEKING RESOLUTION TO TRADE ACT PROBLEMS, INSISTED THAT VENEZUELA NOT INTERESTED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH ITS ERSTWHILE FRIEND (US) AND GOOD CUSTOMER, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE FRUIT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUL, ON BASIS OF EQUALITY AND JUSTICE.

7. COMMENT. ASSESSING LATIN FEELINGS IS RISKY, BUT WE SENSE A WEARINESS WITH POLEMICS AND A GENUINE INTEREST IN SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF TRADE ACT. VENEZUELA PERORATION SUGGESTS IT TOO FEELS IT SHOULD PULL IN ITS HORNS. US ATTITUDE HAS BEEN LOW-KEYED, RESPONSIVE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, AND EFFECTIVE. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON REPORT OF IA-ECOSOC TO

OAS ASSEMBLY, WHICH COMMITTEE ONE WILL PREPARE, BUT WE ARE
REASONABLY HOPEFUL OF A BALANCED SUMMARY OF VARIOUS
POSITIONS. THIS WOULD GO FAR TOWARDS ENSURING A PRODUCTIVE
DEBATE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE TRADE ACT. INGERSOLL

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